

BLUFF. *adj.* Big; furly; bluffering.
Like thole whom flature did to crowns prefer,
Black-brow'd and bluffy, like Homer's Jupiter. Dryden.

BLU' / tch. *adj.* [from *blue*.] Blue in a small degree.
Side sleeves and kirts, round underborne, with a *bluish* tinsel.
Sho shuf. Much ado about Nothing.

At last, as far as I could cast my eyes
Upon the sea, fowmewhat, mechoough did rise
Like *bluish* mists. Dryden's Indian Emperor.

Here, in full light, the rufflet planks extend,
There wrapt in clouds the hills huffs ascend. Pope.

BLU' / THNESS. *n. f.* [from *blue*.] A small degree of blue colour.
I could make, with crude copper, a solution without the
bluishness, that is wont to accompany its vulgar solutions. Boyle.

To BLUNDER. *v. n.* [*blunderen*, Dutch; perhaps from blind.]
1. To mistake grossly; to err very widely; to mistake flip-
pantly. It is a word implying contempt.
It is one thing to forget matter of fact, and another to *blun-*
der upon the reason of it. L'Estrange.

The grandees and giants in knowledge, who like at all
besides themselves, as barbarous and insignificant, yet *blunder-*
d, and fumbled, about their grand and principal concern.
South.

2. To flounder; to fumble.
He who now to fence, now nonsense leaning,
Means not, but *blunders* round about a meaning. Pope.

To BLUNDER. *v. a.* To mix falsely or blindly.
He seems to understand no difference between effects of esteem and
devotion; between religious and civil worship: for he *blunders*
and confounds all these together; and whatever proves one, he
thinks, proves all the rest. Stillingfleet.

BLUN'DER. *n. f.* [from the verb.] A grofs or shameful mistake.
It was the advice of Schomberg to an historian, that he
should avoid being particular in the drawing up of an army,
and other circumstances in the day of battle; for that he had
observed notorious *blunders* and absurdities committed by writers
not conversant in the art of war. Addison. Freeholder.

It is our own ignorance that makes us charge those works of
the Almighty, as defects or *blunders*, as ill-contrived or ill-
made. Derham's Physico-Theology.

BLUN'DERBUSS. *n. f.* [from *blunder*.] A gun that is charged
with many bullets, so that, without any exact aim, there is a
chance of hitting the mark.
There are *blunderbusses* in every loop-hole, that go off of
their own accord, at the squeaking of a fiddle. Dryden.

BLUN'DERER. *n. f.* [from *blunder*.] A man apt to commit blun-
ders; a blockhead.
Another sort of judges will decide in favour of an author,
or will pronounce him a mere *blunderer*, according to the company
they have kept. Watts's Improvement of the Mind.

BLUN'DERHEAD. *n. f.* [from *blunder* and head.] A stupid fellow.
At the rate of this thick-skulled *blunderhead*, every plow-
jobber shall take upon him to read upon divinity. L'Estrange.

BLUNT. *adj.* [etymology uncertain.]

1. Dull on the edge or point; not sharp.
If the iron be *blunt*, and he do not whet the edge, then must
he put to more strength. Eccles; x. v. o.
Thanks to that beauty, which can give an edge to the blunt-
est swords. Sidney, b. i.

2. Dull in understanding; not quick.
Valentine being gone, I'll quickly cross,
By some fly trick, *blunt* Thurio's dull proceeding. Skelton.

Whitehead, a grave divine, was of a *blunt* stoical nature;
one day the queen happened to say, I like thee the better, be-
cause thou livest unmarried. He answered, Madam, I like you
the more because you are unmarried. Bacon's Apphethegms.

3. Rough; not delicate; not civil.
The mayor of the town came to seize them in a *blunt* man-
ner, alleging a warrant to stop them. Waton.

This not enough your counsel still be true;
Blunt truths more mischief than nice fallshoods do. Pope.

4. Abrupt; not elegant.
To use too many circumstances, are one come to the matter,
is wearifome; to use none at all, is *blunt*. Bacon.

5. Hard to penetrate. This use is improper.
I find my heart hardened and *blunt* to new impressions; it
will scarce receive or retain affections of yesterday.
Pope, Lat. lxxxiii. to Swift.

To BLUNT. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To dull the edge or point.
So sick'n waining moons too near the face,
And *blunt* their fiery crests on the edge of day. Dryden.

Earthly limbs, and grofs alloy,
Blunt not the beams of heav'n, and edge of day. Dryden.

He had such things to urge against our marriage,
As, now declar'd, would *blunt* my sword in battle,
And dazefairze my courage. Dryden's Don Sebastian.

2. To repress, or weaken any appetite, desire, or power of the
mind.

Blunt not his love ;
Nor loofe the good advantage of his grace,
By fawning cold. *Shakspe. Henry IV. p. 21.*

BLUNTLY, *adv.* [from *blunt*.]
1. In a blunt manner ; without sharpness.
2. Coarsely ; plainly ; roughly.
I can keep honest counfels, marr a curious tale in telling it,
and deliver a plain meffage bluntly. *Shakspe. King Lear.*

A man of honeft bluff,
Who to his wife, before the time affign'd
For childbringe came, thus *bluntly* fpoke his mind. *Dryden.*

BLUNTNESS, *n. f.* [from *blunt*.]
1. Want of edge or point ; dulnefs ; obtufenefs ; want of
sharpnefs.
The crafty boy, that had full oft effay'd
To pierce my ftubborn and refifting breaft,
But till the *bluntness* of his darts betray'd. *Suckling.*
His filence grew wit, his *bluntness* integrity, his beaftly ig-
norance, virtuous fimplicity. *Sidney, b. i.*
Manage difputes with civility ; whence fome readers will be
affaid to difcern a difference betwixt *bluntness* of fpeech and
frength of reafon. *Boyle.*

Falfe friends, his deefteft foes, could find no way,
But thows of honeft *bluntness* to betray. *Dryde, H. and Pan.*

BLUNTWITTED, *adj.* [from *blunt* and *wit*.] Dull ; ftupid.
Bluntwitted lord, ignoble in demeanour. *Shakspe. H. VI.*

BLUR, *n. f.* [*borra*, Span. a blot. *Skinn.*] A blot ; a flain ; a spot.
Man, once fallen, was nothing but a great *blur* ; a total un-
verfal pollution. *South.*

TO BLUR, *v. a.* [from the noun.]
1. To blot ; to efface ; to obfcure.
Such an act,
That *blurs* the grace and blifs of modesty,
Calls virtue hypocrite. *Shakspe. King Lear.*
Long is it fince I faw him ;
But time hath nottoblen *blur'd* thofe lines of favour,
Which then he wore. *Shakspe. Cymbeline.*
Concerning innate principles, I defire thefe men to fay,
whether they can, or cannot, by education and custom, be *blur-*
red and blotted out. *Lack.*

2. To blot ; to flain.
Sarcasms may eclipfe thine own,
But cannot *blur* my loft renown. *Hudibras, p. i. cant. iii.*

TO BLURT, *v. a.* [without etymology.] To fpeak inadver-
tently ; to let fly without thinking.
Others caft out blots and deadly fpeeches at random, and
cannot hold, but *blurt* out thofe words, which afterwards they
are forced to eat. *Hakewell on Providence.*

They had fome belief of a Deity, which they, upon fur-
prize, thus *blurt* out. *Government of the Tongue, § 5.*

TO BLUSH, *v. n.* [*blufen*, Dutch.]
1. To betray flame or confufion, by a red colour in the cheek.
I have mark'd
A thoufand *blushing* apparitions
To flart into her face ; a thoufand innocent flames,
In angel whitenefs, bear away thefe blufhes. *Shakspe. Much ado about Nothing.*

Pale and bloodlefs,
Being all defended to the labring heart,
Which with the heart there cools, and ne'er returneth
To *blush* and beautify the cheek again. *Shakspe. Henry VI.*

I will go wath
And when my face is fair, you fhall perceive
Whether I *blush*, or no. *Shakspe. Cymbeline.*

All thefe things are graceful in a friend's mouth, mo-
derate in a man's own. *Bacon, Eflay 28.*

Shame cauleth *blushing* ; *blushing* is the reft of the blood to
the face ; although *blushing* will be feen in the whole breaft,
yet that is but in pallage to the face. *Bacon's Nat. Hiftory.*

Blush then, but *blush* for your deftructive filence,
That tears your foul. *Smith's Pheasant, and Hippolitus.*

2. To carry a red colour, or any foft and bright colour.
To day he puts forth
The tender leaves of hope ; tomorrow bluffs him,
And bears his *blushing* honours thick upon him. *Sh. H. VI.*

Along thofe *blushing* borders, bright with dew. *Thomfon.*

3. It has at before the caufe of flame.
He whin'd, and roar'd away your victory,
That pages *blush'd* at him ; and men of heart
Look'd wond'ring at each other. *Shakspe. Coriolanus.*
You have not yet loft all your natural modesty, but *blush* at
Calamy's Sermons. *Calamy's Sermons.*

BLUSH, *n. f.* [from the verb.]
1. The colour in the cheeks, raiſed by flame or confufion.
The virgin's with, without her fears, impart
Excufe the *blush*, and pour out all the heart. *Pope.*

2. A red or purple colour.
But here the roſes *blush* to rare,
Here the mornings ſmile to fair,
As if neither cloud, nor wind,
But would be courteous, would be kind. *Crowfoot, 2. Suddes.*

3. Sudden appearance; a signification that seems barbarous, yet used by good writers.

All purely identical propositions, obviously and at first *blush*, appear to contain no certain instruction in them. *Locke.*

Blush, *adv.* [from *blush*.] Having the colour of a blush.

Blossoms of trees, that are *white*, are commonly inordinate; those of apples, crabs, and *peaches*, are *bluish*, and (well *smell*) *white*. *Bacon's Natural Hist.* No 507.

Stratonicæ entering, moved a *bluish* colour in his face; but, deserting him, he relapsed into the same paleness and languour. *Harvey on Consumptions.*

To BLUSTER. *v. n.* [supposed from *bluff*.]

1. To roar as a storm; to be violent and loud.

Earth his uncouth mother was,
And *blustering* Æolus his boisted fire. *Spenser.*

So now he storms with many a sturdy stouture;
So now his *bluff* blast each coast doth scour. *Spenser.*

2. To bully; to puff; to swagger; to be tumultuous.

My heart's too big to bear this, says a *blustering* fellow; I'll destroy myself. Sir, says the gentleman, here's a dagger at your service; to the humour went off. *L'Estrange.*

Either he must sink to a downright confession, or else he must huff and *bluster*, till perhaps he rate a counter-form. *Government of the Tongue.*

Virgil had the majesty of a lawful prince, and Statius only the *blustering* of a tyrant. *Dryden's Spanish Friar, Dedication.*

There let him reach the jailor of the wind;
With hoarse commands his breathing subjects call,
And boast and *bluster* in his empty ball. *Dryden's Æneid.*

BLUSTER. *n. f.* [from the verb.]

1. Roar; noise; tumult.

The skies look grimly,
And threaten perempt *blusters*. *Shakspeare Twelfth Night.*

To the winds they fet
Their corners; when with *bluster* to confound
Sea, air, and shore. *Milton's Paradise Lost*, b. x. l. 665.

So, by the brazen trumpet's blast,
Troops of all tongues and nations muster. *Swift.*

2. Boast; boisterousness; turbulence; fury.

Spare thy Athenian cradle, and thofe kin,
Which in the *bluster* of thy wrath must fall
With thofe that have offended. *Shakspeare Timon.*

A coward makes a great deal more *bluster* than a man of honour. *L'Estrange.*

BLUSTERER. *n. f.* [from *bluster*.] A swaggerer; a bully; a tumultuous noisy fellow.

BLUSTROUS. *adv.* [from *bluster*.] Tumultuous; noisy.

The ancient heroes were illustrious
For being benign, and not *blustreous*. *Hudibras*, p. i. c. iii.

BML. *n. f.* A note in music.

Gamut I am, the ground of all accord,
Bmi, Bianca, take him for thy lord. *Shakspeare Tam. Shrew.*

Bo. *interj.* A word of terror; from *Bo*, an old northern captain, of such fame, that his name was used to terrify the enemy. *Temple.*

BOAR. *n. f.* [bar, Saxon; beer, Dutch.] The male swine.

To fly the bear, before the bear pursues,
Were to incense the bear to follow us. *Shakspeare Rich. III.*

His spot the bear away;
His eyeballs glaze with fire, furrows'd with blood;
His neck thrust up a thickset thorny wood;
His bristled back a trench imperial appears. *Dryden's Fables.*

Bo'AR-SPEAR. *n. f.* [from *bear* and *spear*.] A spear used in hunting the bear.

And in her hand a sharp *bear-spear* the held,
And at her back a bow and quiver gay,
Stuff'd with steel-headed darts. *Fairy Queen*, b. i. c. iii.

Echion threw the first, but mis'd his mark,
And struck his *bear-spear* on a maple bark. *Dryden's Oxid.*

BOARD. *n. f.* [board, Goth. bred, Saxon.]

1. A piece of wood of more length and breadth than thickness.

With the saw they have funded trees in boards and planks. *Raleigh's Effigy.*

Every house has a *board* over the door, wherein is written the number, sex, and quality of the persons living in it. *Temple.*

Go now, go, tempt the wind's uncertain breath,
Remov'd four furlongs from approaching death;
Or even at foot, when the scuff is the board. *Dryden's Juv.*

2. A table. [from *board*, Welch.]

Soon after that, three hundred lords he flew,
Of British blood, all fitting at his board. *Fairy Queen*, b. ii. c.

In bed he slept not, for my urging it;
At board he fed not, for my urging it. *Shakspeare Com. of Err.*

I'll follow thee in funeral flames; when dead,
My ghost shall thee attend at board and bed. *Sir F. Danbarn.*

Cleopatra made Antony a supper, which was sumptuous and royal; howbeit there was no extraordinary service upon the board. *Hawkeswell on Providence.*

May ev'ry god his friendly aid afford;
Pan guard thy Rock, and Ceres bleis thy board. *Prior's Entertainment*; food.

4. A table at which a council or court is held.

Vol. I.

Both better acquainted with affairs, than any other who *fat*
then at that board. *Clarendon*

5. An assembly feated at a table; a court of jurisdiction.
I with the king would be *boarded* sometimes to be present at
that board; it adds a majesty to it. *Bacon's Advice to Villiers*.

6. The deck or floor of a ship; on board signifies in a ship.
New board to board the rival vessels grow.

The billows love the skies, and ocean roars below. *Dryd.*
Our captain thought his ship in so great danger, that he
confessed himself to a capuchin, who was on board. *Addison*.
He ordered his men to arm long poles with sharp hooks,
wherewith they took hold of the tackling, which held the main-
yard to the masts of their enemy's ship; then, rowing their own
ship, they cut the tackling, and brought the mainyard by the
board. *Arbutnot on Coins.*

To BOARD. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To enter a ship by force; the same as to storm, used of a city.
I boarded the king's ship: now on the beach,
Now in the wafts, the deck, in every cabin,
I flam'd amazement. *Shakespeare, Tempest.*
Yet not inclin'd the English ship to board,
More on his guns relies than on his sword,
From whence a fatal volley we receiv'd;
It mis'd the duke; but his great heart it griev'd. *Wallers*.
Arm, arm, the cry'd, and let our Tyrians board.
With our's his fleet, and carry fire and sword. *Denham*.

2. To attack, or make the first attempt upon a man; *aborder*
quelqu'un, Fr.
Whom thus at gaze, the Palmer 'gan to board.
With good reason, and thus fair bespake. *Fairy Q. b. ii.*
Away, I do beseech you, both away; *Shakespeare, Hamlet.*
I'll board him presently.
Sure, unless he knew some strain in me, that I knew not my-
self, he would never have boarded me in this fury. *Shakespeare*.
They learn what associates and correspondents they had,
and how far every one is engaged, and what new ones they
meant afterwards to try or board. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

3. To lay or pave with boards.
Having thus boarded the whole room, the edges of some
boards lie higher than the next board; therefore they peruse
the whole floor; and, where they find any irregularities, plan
them off. *Moxon's Mechanical Exercises*.

To BOARD. *v. n.* To live in a house, where a certain rate is
paid for eating. That we might not part,
As we at first did board with thee,
Now thou wouldst taste our misery. *Herbert*.
We are several of us, gentlemen and ladies, who board in
the same house; and, after dinner, one of our company stands up,
and reads your paper to us all. *Spectator, N° 601.*

To BOARD. *v. a.* To place as a boarder in another's house.

BOARD-WAGES. *n. f.* [from board and wages.] Wages allowed
to fervants to keep themselves in victuals.
What more than madmen's reigns,
When one short sitting many hundreds drains,
And not enough is left him, to supply
Board-wages, or a footman's livery? *Dryden's Jew, sat. i.*

BOARDER. *n. f.* [from board.] A tabler; one that eats with an-
other at a settled rate.

BOARDING-SCHOOL. *n. f.* [from board and school.] A school
where the scholars live with the teacher.
A blockhead, with melodious voice,
In *boarding-schools* can have his choice. *Swift*.

BOARDISH. *adj.* [from board.] Swinish; brutal; cruel.
I would not fee thy cruel nails
Pluck out his poor old eyes; nor thy fierce finger,
In his agonised flesh *knave* phangs. *Shakespeare, K. Lear.*

To BOARD. *v. n.* [*bélts*, Welch.]

1. To brag; to talk of one's own worth, or actions, in great
words; to display ostentatiously; with *af*.
For I know the forwardness of your mind, for which *board*
of you to them of Macedonia. *2 Cor. ix. 2.*

2. Sometimes it is used with *in*.
Some *burgons* I have met, carrying bones about in their
pockets, figuring in that which was their shame. *Wifeman*.

3. To exalt one's self.
Thus with your mouth you have *boarded* against me, and
multiplied your words against me. *Ezek. xxxv. 13.*

To BOARD. *v. a.*

1. To brag; to display with ostentatious language.
For if I have *boarded* in this to him of you, I am not a-
flamed. *2 Cor. vii. 14.*
If they vouchsafed to give god the praise of his goodness;
yet they did it only, in order to *board* the interest they had in
him. *Atterbury*.

2. To magnify; to exalt.
They that trust in their wealth, and *board* themselves in the
multitude of their riches. *Psal. xlix. 6.*
Confound'd be all them that ferve graven images, that *board*
themselves of idols. *Psal. xcvi. 7.*

BOARD. *n. f.* [from the verb.]

1. A cause of boasting; an occasion of pride; the thing boasted,
3 H
N